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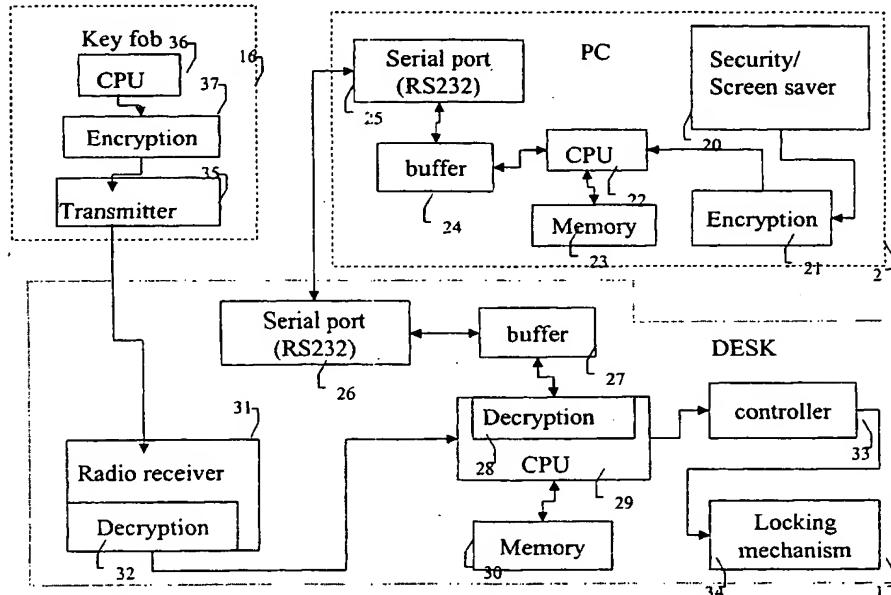
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(57) **Abstract:** A personal computer (2) is responsive to the presence of an authorised user to transmit release signals from a CPU 22 to a CPU 28 to cause the CPU 28 to effect the release of a locking mechanism (34) controlling access to drawers of a desk or filing cabinet for example. In the absence of periodic refresher signals from the PC 2, the CPU 28 causes the locking mechanism to lock the drawers to prevent unauthorised access. The transmitted signals from the PC 2 may also be used to prevent or allow use of electrical or electronic apparatuses and/or to control environmental conditions appropriate to the presence or absence of users.